

Zion Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 314  
350 Pearl St.  
Cadillac, MI 49601



# *TOWER TOPICS*

## *January 2024*



### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **Worship Services**

9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

(9a.m. is online on FaceBook)

#### **Communion**

1st & 3rd Sundays

#### **Sunday School**

2nd & 4th Sundays during 9:00 Service  
(4 yrs through 6th grade)



# The Tower Topics

January 2024  
Volume 32 Number 1  
Rev. Scott Torkko

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**I am the New Year.**

**I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.**

**I am your next chance in the art of living.**

**I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned  
during the last twelve months about life.**

**All that you sought the past year and failed to find is hidden  
in me: I am waiting for you to search it out again with more  
determination.**

**All the good that you tried to do for others and didn't  
achieve last year is mine to grant—providing you have fewer  
selfish and conflicting desires.**

**In me lies the potential of all that you have dreamed but  
didn't dare do, and all that you hoped but did not perform.  
All you prayed for but did not yet experience. These dreams  
slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of an  
enduring purpose.**

**Your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Christ who  
said, "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5).**

**I am the New Year.**

Author Unknown

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# JANUARY 2024

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1 Happy New Year</b>                       | <b>16 Council meeting 6:30</b>                 |
| <b>2 Fellowship Meeting 3pm</b>               | <b>17</b>                                      |
| <b>4</b>                                      | <b>18 Women's Lunch Bunch</b>                  |
| <b>5</b>                                      | <b>19</b>                                      |
| <b>6</b>                                      | <b>20 Confirmation Retreat 9am</b>             |
| <b>7 Worship with communion 9 &amp; 10:30</b> | <b>21 Worship with communion 9 &amp; 10:30</b> |
| <b>8 Stitchery 9:30</b>                       | <b>22 Stitchery 9:30</b>                       |
| <b>Evangelism meeting 1pm</b>                 | <b>TOPS 5pm</b>                                |
| <b>Outreach meeting 4pm</b>                   | <b>23</b>                                      |
| <b>TOPS 5pm</b>                               | <b>24 Widows' Gathering</b>                    |
| <b>Special Olympic Brd meeting 5pm</b>        | <b>25</b>                                      |
| <b>Finance Committee meeting 6:30</b>         | <b>26</b>                                      |
| <b>9 Worship &amp; Music meeting 3:30</b>     | <b>27 Soup 4 Seniors</b>                       |
| <b>Executive meeting 5:15</b>                 | <b>28 Worship 9 &amp; 10:30</b>                |
| <b>10 Library meeting 3pm</b>                 | <b>Sunday School 9:15</b>                      |
| <b>Book Club 4pm</b>                          | <b>Congregational Meeting 11:30</b>            |
| <b>11</b>                                     | <b>29 TOPS 5pm</b>                             |
| <b>12</b>                                     | <b>30</b>                                      |
| <b>13</b>                                     | <b>31</b>                                      |
| <b>14 Worship 9 &amp; 10:30</b>               |  |
| <b>Sunday School 9:15</b>                     |  |
| <b>15 TOPS 5pm</b>                            |  |
| <b>Cadillac Welcome Club 7pm</b>              |  |



# PASTOR'S PAGE

## Thoughts from Pastor Scott



### Worship at the Greenhouse

What an amazing event, "Worship at the Greenhouse" turned out to be! Between 75 and 85 people showed up to this monthly gathering in September, October, and November. A different speaker spoke each night. Community building questions brought people into conversation. Kids were able to roam through the Greenhouse without parents being overly concerned about their movement or noise level. People accepted the invitation to step forward to lead in new ways. Samantha Crawford did an outstanding job of leading music. The relaxed atmosphere allowed us to engage our faith in a different way. And...the snacks were often outstanding.

The goal of "Worship at the Greenhouse" was to reengage our younger families in a distinctly Christian community. This goal was met...and then some. Greenhouse worship became a place of genuine connection between the generations. It was awesome!

After 3 meaningful experiences, the question that has to be asked (and answered) is this: now what? I've spent a good deal of time over several weeks wrestling with the "now what?" question. I have vacillated from wondering if Worship at the Greenhouse might be sustainable as a monthly or bimonthly event, to wondering about my own ability to take on another regular worship service.

In conversation with staff, the executive committee, the council, Lindsey, and after much prayer and reflection, I've come to the conclusion that, at this time, Worship at the Greenhouse is best utilized as an occasional opportunity for Christian community and worship. To look at the 2024 calendar is to see some significant events that will take time and energy. The 150<sup>th</sup> celebration begins with a special worship service in May of 2024, continues with monthly events thereafter, and concludes with a special meal at Fox Hill at the end of September.

Lent begins early this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 14th.

I will be teaching "Zion 101" on the Sunday's of Lent, inviting a growing number of visitors and new members to participate.

There are 2 more confirmation retreats to plan for. The summer concert series on Saturday evenings will begin again in June and last until August. And, as a wise leader at Zion reminded me, there are those things that do not allow for planning, most specifically responding to health concerns and funerals. Our life at Zion will be full in 2024.

Even so, Zion is served well by the challenge of creating unique opportunities for Christian community. What would it look like if Worship at the Greenhouse was one of a series of unique opportunities to connect with Christian community? What if there were several similar connecting points that brought people together in creative and lifegiving ways? I have wondered out loud about congregation wide, intergenerational Vacation Bible School. I have given some thought to intergenerational, family mission trips. What if Bible and a Brew made a comeback...a time to sit around a table informally at some restaurant and work through a book of the Bible together?

The possibilities really are endless. I'm excited about bringing back "Worship at the Greenhouse" at some point in 2024. I'm just as excited to imagine what we might create together, that Christian community might be built and sustained. Here's to a new year, full of new possibilities, in service of the one who makes all things new.

Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott





## *Ministry Coordinator*

*Val Hanson*

Each year, in addition to tasks that always need to be completed, I work with Pastor Scott to write a few ministry goals. Before 2024 gets too far underway, I would like to take a moment and let you know what happened with the goals set for ministry last year:

Goal 1: Facilitate a discussion group focusing on the topic of generosity. Result: I facilitated a 5-week study on the topic of generosity. We met July 10-August 7, and there were 9 participants. The group was small, but those who attended reported that their thoughts were provoked toward generosity and I felt that we had some really in-depth discussions.

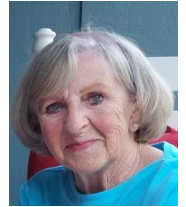
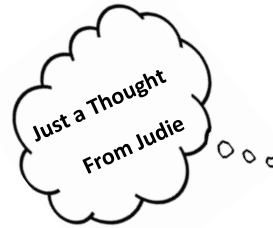
Goal 2: Arrange for six different ministries to be highlighted (explained and prayed for) during worship services throughout the year. Result: Seven ministries were highlighted during the year: Safe Families, Evangelism, Outreach, Funeral Luncheon Ministry, Fellowship, Kids Hope, and Stitchery. This allowed congregation members to hear from people leading different ministries and introduced little known aspects of each ministry. There are

many more ministries we could highlight and expect that this practice will continue, although probably not as often as it was done in 2023.

Goal 3: Hold at least one connection meeting per month for the purposes of getting to know those new to our congregation, answering ministry questions, and offering information each might find valuable in connecting to the congregation. Result: I met with fourteen people. Some of those I talked with were new to Zion and looking for a way to feel more connected and become part of the work we do together. Some have been worshiping with us for a while, but are still feeling on the fringes of our congregational life. I loved talking with each and every one of them and expect to continue these meetings as a normal part of what I do each year. Pastor Scott and I have already talked about ministry goals for 2024. There will be more about that coming next month.

In His Service,

Val



## The Sounds of Silence

We cannot hear the sun rising or setting,  
or the moon or stars shining.  
We cannot hear joy as it touches an individual heart,  
or the tears silently sliding down the face of someone grieving.

We cannot hear the prayers of a grandmother for her beloved grandchild who is suffering with an illness, nor the anguished feelings of parents who are experiencing the repercussions of their child's choices. Nor can we hear the silent tugs on the heartstrings of those who have lost loved ones.

The wonder, looking into the eyes of a newborn is a silent, overwhelming feeling of love.

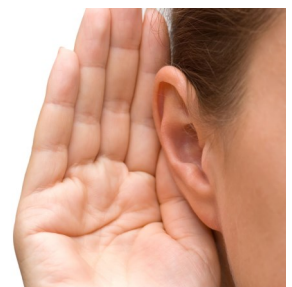
Listening to the wedding vows of a beloved friend or relative fills one with silent pleasure.

Prayer beside the bedside of a departing loved one fills the mind and heart silently. The feelings of the words "I love you" silently fill one's heart with their meaning.

All sounds of silence.....

As we begin this new year, may we be reminded of "how silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given." And may we receive it and let it live in and through us as we move through each day, each week and each month of this new calendar year.

Just some thoughts from Judie





## Church Library



Our Library Ministry is headed up by Patti Swanson, and her crew; Sue Traviss, Barb Taylor and Jeanette Baumgras.

It has been stocked with reading material for all tastes.

Books are awaiting check out for your reading pleasure.

On your way out of church, stop by and pick out a good read for a cold winter's afternoon or evening.

---

We sat down at the dining room table. On the menu: leftovers.

As we were saying grace, I noticed that my young son wasn't joining in. I asked him why. His response: "Because I already blessed it last night."



Once again, our congregation has responded graciously to adorning our Mitten Tree with warm mittens, hats and scarves which will be packed up and distributed to the local area schools to be freely available for any and all children who are in need of them.

Little hands and heads will be kept warm as they play outside during recess and are theirs to keep.

Thank you members of Zion for your generosity and caring .

**This is what we do at Zion.**



## Providing Transportation to those in need

The **January 28 "Noisy" Offering** will, once again, support our long-term ministry of helping provide transportation to those in need in our local community. The money you so generously share allows the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) to **purchase bus passes** for local clients, who do not have their own transportation and struggle to have adequate funding for public transit.

In past years, Adam Traviss, who is a Housing Based Case Manager for NMCAA, used bus passes to help a variety of clients. These clients included a veteran who needed to get to VA appointments and the grocery store as well as a client who lived outside the city limits and needed to get into town for appointments and to run errands.

With the economy in turmoil, these bus passes are needed more than ever. So, please save up your loose change and help us make a "loud noise" of caring for our local community on January 28.

Our Noisy  
Offerings  
at  
Work

## Your support is helping "Warm" those in Need

Thank you for your support of our November 26 "Noisy" offering. We were able to give our **Zion Stitchery Group \$244.66** to support their ministry of providing quilts, crib quilts, and lap robes, and mittens, hats, and scarves for the less fortunate. Your support will help warm many bodies and "love" many souls.







The Lunch Bunch will gather again Thursday, January 18. Join us for a noon luncheon at the Roasted Cafe, located at 115 N. Mitchell Street in Cadillac. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at church, so we have a count for the restaurant. Marilyn Bridges is the hostess for our January luncheon.

For those unfamiliar with our Lunch Bunch group, it is for any woman who would like to get together for lunch and fellowship. So, join us on January 18 and invite your neighbors or friends to come with you. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn.

## Group Meetings At Zion



Stitchery Group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month in the "All Purpose Room" at Zion @ 9:30. a.m. New helping hands are welcome.



### Soup 4 Seniors

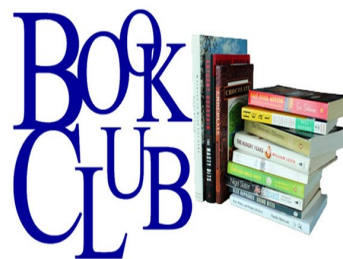
At noon, the last Saturday of January, come enjoy delicious soup, rolls and also Penny Stange's tasty desserts with a hot cup of coffee. No charge.

Just sign up on the church bulletin board.

Either come alone, with family, or you're welcome to bring a friend.



Prayer Shawl Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall the first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Knitters, bring your yarn and needles and come join us.



The book club will be meeting Wednesday, January 10th at 4:00 p.m. They will be discussing the book Ginny Moon by Benjamin Ludwig. The discussion leader is Mary Kidder.

## Widows Gathering Together



On November 29, six Zion ladies got together at church. We discussed what direction, as widows, we wanted to go.

As we sat around the table talking about how our lives have changed, several ideas were discussed concerning our needs and how we could come together, whether it be socially or in a more structured way.

Another gathering is planned for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 1:00 at the church.

For others sharing our situation, please feel free to join us and share your thoughts and/or ideas with us.



## Photographers Needed



If you're handy with a camera and taking pictures, the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee needs your help. We're looking for individuals willing to document the events of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this year. We're hoping to get a group of people, so one person doesn't have to be at every event. If your talents are in this area and you can help, please let us know by signing up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at church or by contacting Marilyn Bridges.



## Birthdays



# Prayer Requests



## New/updated Prayer Requests

- \*Chris L, Rick & Patti S's son in law, mini stroke
- \*Bob L, surgery recovery
- \*Carol J, Lee & Peggy J's sister in law, stroke
- \*Dorothy S, Marie M's mom, health concerns
- \*Sherry S, back surgery
- \*Steve D, health concerns
- \*Karyn, George & Cathy C's daughter in law, health concerns
- \*Louise W, recovering from illness
- \*Jerry S, nephew of Ruth S, ALS

December 10, 2023

Hadley N, 9yr old daughter of Lori Nand Darrin Nreceived the sacrament of Holy Baptism .

We welcome Hadley Into our Zion family.

To add a prayer request to our list, please contact Pastor Scott at [zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com)

## Continuing prayer requests:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| *Deb B    | *Dennis T                                       |
| *Jean B   | *Fatima, Nailya's sister                        |
| *Joanne C | *Tim S, Peggy & Lee J's son in law, brain tumor |
| *Linda C  | *Alea S, Deb K's granddaughter, health concerns |
| *Nailya C |   |
| *Gail D   |   |
| *Joel G   |   |
| *Nancy G  |   |
| *Cassie J |   |
| *Dick M   |   |
| *Jan M    |   |
| *Wendy M  |   |
| *Jerry P  |   |
| *Denny R  |   |
| *Janet S  |   |

## Prayer Chain



Zion's Prayer Chain is happy to pray for requests that you have throughout the week. To request prayer, contact Linda Carlson.

**Please Note:** Prayer requests will be listed in the bulletin for one month. After that time, requests will be moved to the continuing prayer request list. Please pick up a complete prayer request list on the table outside the sanctuary. Please contact the church office if the prayer request changes.

# JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

## **Sunday, January 7**

### **Communion Assistants**

9:00 Jennifer Sück,  
Kendra & Michael Vandervelde

10:30 Bobbie Brown, Colleen Luhtanen,  
& Helen Potter

### **Lectors**

9:00 Jennifer Sück

10:30 Jeanette Baumgras

### **Sound Techs**

9:00 Joseph Baumann

10:30 Maddie Houle

### **Ushers**

9:00 Cara Bosack and Paula Campbell

10:30 George and Karolyn Lackey

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

9:00 Bruce and Chris Norkoli

10:30 Helen Potter & Niki Schultz

### **Altar Guild**

Nancy Anderson, Anne Brus,  
& Melissa Sjogren

### **Helping with Communion Clean Up following 10:30 worship**

Charles and Teresa Raab

## **Sunday, January 14**

### **Lectors**

9:00 David Koenig

10:30 Don VanDyke

### **Sound Techs**

9:00 Scott Hanson

10:30 Randy Mercier

### **Ushers**

9:00 Karla Anderson

10:30 Marie Mercier

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

9:00 Elsie Moore and Chris Venema

10:30 Ron and Sue Smith

# JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

## continued

### **Sunday, January 21**

#### **Communion Assistants**

9:00 Marilyn Bridges, Mike Coy, &  
Cindy Evarts

10:30 Jeri LaRocque, Dave Monson, &  
Sally Smith

#### **Lectors**

9:00 Millie Zukauskys

10:30 Abrielle Koschmider

#### **Sound Techs**

9:00 Eric Gustafson

10:30 Anne Koschmider

#### **Ushers**

9:00 Jeff & Penny Johnson

10:30 Marty & Pam Dahlstrom

#### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

9:00 Marilyn Bridges & Cindy Evarts

10:30 Burt and Peg Hines & Marie Mercier

#### **Altar Guild**

Nancy Anderson, Anne Brus, &  
Melissa Sjogren

#### **Helping with Communion Clean Up following worship**

Jeff and Penny Johnson

### **Sunday, January 28**

#### **Lectors**

9:00 Marilyn Bridges

10:30 Colleen Luhtanen

#### **Sound Techs**

9:00 Scott Hanson

10:30 Randy Mercier

#### **Ushers**

9:00 Bob Shumway

10:30 Phil Kuusisto

#### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

9:00 Bussey Family

10:30 Beckie Kanipe and Marilyn Pratt



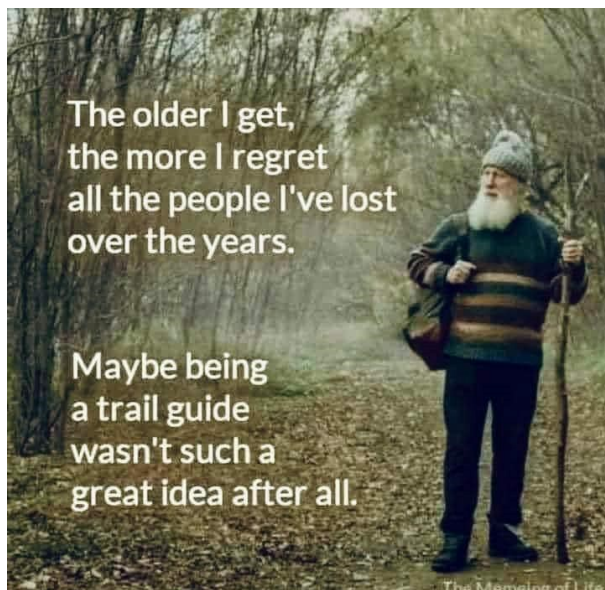


"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."

A man boasts to a friend about his new hearing aid, 'It's the most expensive one I've ever had, it cost me \$5,000.

His friend asks, 'What kind is it?'

The braggart says, 'Half past four.'



The older I get,  
the more I regret  
all the people I've lost  
over the years.

Maybe being  
a trail guide  
wasn't such a  
great idea after all.

TIME  
FOR  
A  
SMILE



Turns out it was a marble  
in the ashtray...

### Church News Bloopers

**Tonight's sermon: 'What is hell?'**

**Come early and listen to our choir  
practice.**

**This being Easter Sunday, we will ask  
Mrs. Richards to come forward and lay  
an egg at the altar.**

**Remember in prayer the many who are  
sick of our church and community.**

**Help blow up and decorate the church with  
balloons on Easter morning. Meet at 7:30 am  
to help. Won't take long!**

**New choir robes are currently needed due  
to the addition of new members, and to the  
deterioration of some of older ones.**